

Interview Summary

Application No.

10/786,186

Applicant(s)

WEST ET AL.

Examiner

Michael B. Priddy

Art Unit

3733

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Michael B. Priddy. (3) _____

(2) John M. Guynn. (4) _____

Date of Interview: August 15, 2007.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: newly proposed claims 29 and 30.

Identification of prior art discussed: Axelson, Jr. et al. (US 5,860,980) and Fanger et al. (US 2004/0204717).

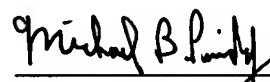
Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Mr. Guynn proposed new claim 29 with additional language requiring the body of the suture separation device include suture retention recesses or protrusions on both the upper and lower perimeter of the body and requiring the hollow post guide project from the second surface of the body. Mr. Guynn also proposed new "system" claim 30 with additional language requiring suture retention recesses or protrusions on both the upper and lower perimeter of the body. The Examiner tentatively agreed that this language defines around the prior art of record.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Serial No. 10/786,186

Docket No. 14000.8.1.1

29. **(Proposed New Claim—For Discussion Only)** A suture separation and organization device for use in organizing and separating tensioned suture strands in a desired spaced-apart orientation during joint repair surgery, comprising:

a body having a first surface that is oriented toward a graft tensioning device when in use and second surface that is oriented toward a bone tunnel in a patient's leg when in use, the body having a center and a perimeter;

a plurality of attachment passages or recesses in said body, each being sized and positioned so as to at least partially receive therein a corresponding post of a graft tensioning device, each of said attachment passages or recesses being defined by a respective hollow post guide extending laterally from said first surface of said body so as to maintain space between a patient's leg and said second surface of said body when said suture separation and organization device is in use;

a plurality of suture retention recesses or protrusions disposed on a perimeter of said body and adapted to retain a plurality of tensioned suture strands or groups of tensioned suture strands extending away from a bone tunnel in a desired spaced-apart relationship on either side of the bone tunnel in order to facilitate insertion of an interference screw between the tensioned suture strands; and

a passageway or recess passing through the center of said body through which an interference screw can be inserted between tensioned suture strands during joint repair surgery.

[Variation of original claim 13]

30. **(Proposed New Claim—For Discussion Only)** A tensioning system for applying variable tension to a plurality of suture strands attached to a soft tissue graft positioned within a bone tunnel and for organizing the suture strands preparatory to fastening the soft tissue graft within the bone tunnel, the tensioning system comprising:

a graft tensioning device having adjustable tensioning means for selectively varying a tensile load applied to a plurality of suture strands attached to a soft tissue graft positioned within a bone tunnel and that extend away from the bone tunnel; and

a suture separation and organization device comprising:

body means for providing a structure for the suture separation and organization device;

attachment means for removably attaching said body means to said graft tensioning device;

means for separating and organizing a plurality of tensioned suture strands extending away from the bone tunnel in a desired spaced-apart orientation in order to facilitate insertion of an interference screw between the suture strands and into the bone tunnel; and

a passageway or recess in said body means through which an interference screw can be inserted.

[Variation of original claims 16 and 17]